(b) Most of the States are encouraging and developing Ayurveda. In about 15 States and UTs there is a separate Directorate of ISM to encourage this System of Medicine. Similarly most of the States have also set up Ayurvedic Under-Graduate Colleges and PG Departments and a number of Ayurvedic Hospitals and Dispensaries for promotion of Ayurveda of Medicine. Details of the Institutions/Colleges/Hospitals/Dispensaries may please be seen at Annexure.

(*See* Appendix No. 184 Annexure-105)

Prevention of Pre-Natal Sex-Determination Tests

4196. SHRI LAJPAT RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an action plan underway to prevent pre-natal sex determination tests; and

(b) if so, how soon it can be expected to come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 has come into force with effect from 1st January, 1996 in all the States and Union Territories (except Jammu & Kashmir). Pre-natal diagnostic techniques can be conducted, and genetic counselling can be offered only by genetic clinics, genetic laboratories and genetic counselling centres registered under the Act. Use of Pre-natal diagnostic techniques is allowed only for detecting any of the abnormalities and subject to the fulfilment of one of the conditions specified in the Act. Disclosure of the sex of the foetus is prohibited under the Act. The statutory implementation mechanism under the Act has been constituted.

Strike by employees of Government Hospitals in Delhi

4197. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 8th July, 1998 captioned "Health care to be paralysed-Group C, D staff begins 3 day stir today" in the capital involving 26 Government hospitals and the All India Institute of Medical Sciences;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the capital is already in the grip of diseases such as Gastro-enteritis, Jaundice and Conjunctivitis etc.; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to hold an early dialogue with its employees so as to avert strike indicating till date latest position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi have informed that Delhi is endemic for Gastro-enteritis, Jaundice and Conjuctivitis but it is not correct that there has been any large-scale outbreak or epidemic.

(c) Meetings have been held with the employees on several occasions at different levels in the Department, the last one being on 22.7.1998. The Government has made its position on the demands clear to the employees including what is possible and advised them repeatedly to rejoin duties.

Renewal of Pensioners' CGHS Cards

4198. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKATRAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pensioners' CGHS cards are being renewed;